

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

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1. (currently amended) A punch holder, comprising,
an elongated ~~hollow handle~~ body having a forward end with an
enclosed first compartment having a shape to receive and
engage ~~the~~a shank of an elongated punch,
a plunger slidably mounted in the ~~handle~~body and having a
forward end in the enclosed compartment,
a spring associated with the plunger disposed within a second
compartment and yieldingly urging the plunger into the
enclosed first compartment,
an elongated slot in the ~~handle~~body, and
a handle secured by one end to the plunger and extending
outwardly through the slot to permit manual grasping
thereof to pull the plunger rearwardly against the spring
to release ~~a~~the punch shank from engagement with the
plunger, or to permit the placement of a punch within the
enclosed compartment in the path of a forward end of the
plunger; and
a third storage compartment disposed within the body for
receiving a plurality of punches.
2. (cancelled)
3. (cancelled)

4. (new) The punch holder of claim 1 wherein a threaded plug engages the spring to adjust the compression of the spring.
5. (new) A punch holder, comprising,
an elongated body having a forward end with an enclosed first compartment having a shape to receive and engage a shank of an elongated punch,
a plunger slidably mounted in the body and having a forward end in the first enclosed compartment,
a spring associated with the plunger disposed within a second compartment yieldingly urging the plunger into the enclosed compartment,
an elongated slot in the body,
a handle secured by one end to the plunger and extending outwardly through the slot to permit manual grasping thereof to pull the plunger rearwardly against the spring to release the punch shank from engagement with the plunger, or to permit the placement of a punch within the enclosed compartment in the path of a forward end of the plunger; and
a threaded plug engaging the spring to adjust the compression of the spring.
6. (new) The punch holder of claim 5 further comprising a third compartment disposed within the body for receiving a plurality of punches.
7. (new) The punch holder of claim 5 wherein the enclosed first compartment is frusto-shaped having a flat head and tapered side walls.

8. (new) A punch holder, comprising,
an elongated body having a forward end with an enclosed
compartment having a shape to receive and engage a shank of
an elongated punch,
a plunger slidably mounted in the body and having a forward end
in the enclosed compartment,
a spring associated with the plunger yieldingly urging the
plunger into the enclosed compartment,
an elongated slot in the body,
a handle secured by one end to the plunger and extending
outwardly through the slot to permit manual grasping
thereof to pull the plunger rearwardly against the spring
to release the punch shank from engagement with the
plunger, or to permit the placement of a punch within the
enclosed compartment in the path of a forward end of the
plunger; and
wherein the enclosed first compartment is frusto-shaped having a
flat head and tapered side walls.

9. (new) The punch holder of claim 8 further comprising a
threaded plug engaging the spring to adjust the compression of
the spring

10. (new) The punch holder of claim 8 further comprising a third
compartment disposed within the body for receiving a plurality
of punches.